

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 527

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to designate Colonel Hugh X. Lewis as the Poet Laureate of Christian Country Music in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Colonel Hugh X. Lewis of Nashville, Tennessee, is an inspirational poet and one of the most distinguished singer-songwriters in the nation; and

WHEREAS, a BMI award-winning country music songwriter and exciting performer, Hugh X. Lewis has penned over 250 country and Christian country songs that have been recorded by such artists as Grand Ole Opry stars: Charlie Pride, Little Jimmy Dickens, Del Reeves, Jim Ed Brown, Stonewall Jackson, Carl Smith, and Kitty Wells; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lewis is widely recognized as a successful poet who has written over 250 frameable greeting card poems, as well as lengthy Christian-themed poems in the geographic shapes of ten Southern states; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, Colonel Lewis has enjoyed an accomplished and prosperous career in the country music and Christian country music recording industry; he has appeared on numerous all-country music radio stations and television shows and stages, including the Grand Ole Opry, Renfro Valley Barn Dance, Tennessee Barn Dance, and the Louisiana Hay Ride; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lewis achieved a significant milestone in his career and life in 1971, when Nashville Mayor Beverly Briley appointed the Colonel to the post of "Nashville's Country Music Ambassador to the World" in appreciation of his superior songwriting talents; and

WHEREAS, listed in the "Walkway of Stars" in the Country Music Hall of Fame, Colonel Lewis has been nominated for induction into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and has a display in his honor at Renfro Valley Museum; and

WHEREAS, for the past two years, Colonel Lewis has been an integral and popular part of the Solid Gold Gospel Radio Network's "The Gregg Hutchins Morning Show"; as a daily feature of the show, Colonel Lewis recites one of his memorable poems to the radio station's faithful listeners for "The Thought of the Day"; and

WHEREAS, it is now time for this premier songwriter to lay claim to a title befitting his august stature; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that in recognition and appreciation of his numerous contributions to Christian Country Music and his other laudable endeavors, Colonel Hugh X. Lewis of Nashville is hereby designated Poet Laureate of Christian Country Music in Tennessee, a title by which he shall henceforth be known.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.